

*Amendment and Response*  
*Serial No. 09/771,526*

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A finished ball comprising an outer skin having a plurality of layer complexes, ~~wherein each layer complex comprises a plurality of pre-bonded layers forming an inseparable layer, the outer skin comprising~~ including at least one inner layer complex and an outermost layer complex forming a top layer complex of the finished ball, wherein the top layer complex ~~comprises a plurality of pre-bonded layers forming an inseparable layer that~~ includes a syntactic material that comprises a plurality of resilient spherical bodies dispersed in a matrix material.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 1 wherein the spherical bodies comprise microspheres.
4. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 1 wherein the spherical bodies comprise polymeric hollow microspheres.
5. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 1 wherein the spherical bodies comprise acrylonitrile copolymer microspheres.
6. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 1 wherein the matrix material is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyurethane foam, polyvinyl chloride, and latex.

*Amendment and Response*  
*Serial No. 09/771,526*

7. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 1 wherein the top layer complex comprises a first layer and a second layer adjacent the first layer.
8. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 7 wherein the second layer comprises an aliphatic material.
9. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 7 wherein the top layer complex further comprises a third layer adjacent the first layer.
10. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 9 wherein the third layer comprises at least one fabric backing material.
11. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 1 wherein the matrix material is an adhesive.
12. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 1 further comprising a middle skin adjacent to the outer skin, a backing layer adjacent to the middle skin, and an inflatable bladder adjacent to the backing layer.
- 13-23. (Cancelled)
24. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 1, wherein the outer skin is formed from a plurality of cut pieces and the plurality of cut pieces are joined together.
25. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of cut pieces are sewn together.
26. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 1, wherein the spherical bodies are not more than 20% by weight of the matrix material.
27. (Previously Presented) A ball according to claim 1, wherein the spherical bodies are not

*Amendment and Response*  
*Serial No. 09/771,526*

less than 1% by weight of the matrix material.